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Thomas Jefferson President of the United States of America,

To all who shall see these presents Greeting:

Know Ye, That reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, integrity, and abilities of Robert Williams of North Carolina, I have nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate do appoint him Governor in and over the Mississippi Territory, and do authorize and empower him to execute and fulfil the duties of that office according to law, and to have and to hold the said office, with all the powers, privileges and emoluments to the same of right appertaining for the term of three years from the day of the date hereof, unless the President of the United States for the time being should be pleased sooner to revoke and determine this Commission.

In Testimony whereof, I have caused these Letters to be made Patent and the Seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, the first day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and five, and of the Independence of the

the United States of America the twenty ninth

(Signed) Th: Jefferson

By the President

(Signed) James Madison

Secretary of State.

Be it remembered that Robert Williams esquire late of North Carolina now constituted and appointed Governor of the Mississippi Territory by the within Commission personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the Superior Judges for said Territory and took an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and an oath faithfully to execute the office of Governor of said Territory according to the best of his skill and abilities.

Given under my hand this thirteenth day of May in the year of the Christian era 1805 and in the 29th year of the independence and sovereignty of the United States.

(Signed) Thomas Rodney

Executive proceedings of the

from the Governor to Cato. West

Washington May 14th 1805

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that being about to
enter on the Execution of the duties of Governor of this Territ
I wish to know when it will be convenient for you to have d
records and publick documents belonging to that office remov
here being the place designated by Law as the seat of
Government

As this step is necessary to the discharge of th
duties of that office it is expected no delay will take
place — The Secretary is respectfully informed that his
attendance is also desired as soon as convenient

I am with respect

Robt Williams

P.S.

A press of business before the Board of Commissio
deprives me of the pleasure contemplated in our late
conversation of seeing you at your house

Cato West Esqr.

Secretary of the Mississippi Territory

1

The Governor to the Secretary

Washington May 16th 1805

Sir

I received last evening by Mr Walton your answer to a request in my letter of the 14th instant to you relative to the removal of the records and Publick documents of the Executive department of this Government

My own opinion Sir is that there are such and that they ought to be at this place

I am not disposed neither have I leisure to enter into a detailed investigation with the Secretary respecting his duties especially when it must be supposed he has been too long in office to mistake them

I have to request that you will attend at this place tomorrow with the seal of office for this Territory it being necessary to the discharge of some Executive business assuring you that this request is not founded on any "attempt at undue control" - But that I shall at all times be disposed to countenance any indulgence the Secretary may desire for his private accommodation so as not to interfere with the publick Interest - The blanks sent by Mr Walton were received but is expected the Secretary will use such forms as the Governor may prescribe

I am Sir

With sentiments of respect

Robert Williams

Cato West Esqr.

Secretary of the M. T.

Having been requested by his Excellency Robert Williams Governor of the Mississippi Territory to wor

on the Secretary of the same with a letter addressed to him by his Excellency. I presented it accordingly I observed to the Secretary that I would wait on him the same evening for a reply - and attended the Secretary observed that he should not answer Mr Williamson writing that Mr Williams had promised to be at his office to receive information of the state of the Territory - if he was to write it might lead to some serious embarrassments and that Mr Williams might act as he thought proper and he would do the same - he then asked if I would take down the seal I replied in the negative - he then said he would send it down the next day if he could or some time shortly

16th May 1805

Parke Walton

on the Governor to James Madison

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge by the last New Orleans Mail yours of the 22d of March enclosing a Commission from the President of the United States to me as Governor of this Territory.

Being about to enter on the discharge of the duties of that office I found that all the records and public documents belonging thereto had been since the departure of the late Governor removed from this place (which is the seat of Government by the Secretary to his own house at sixteen miles off - It being absolutely necessary that that office should be kept here in order to a faithful performance of its duties I made the attempt to have it removed and now have the honor to enclose you the correspond

between the Secretary and myself on that subject marked
№ 1. 2. 3. 4.

What steps it may be proper to take on this occasion are respectfully submited to the Executive of the United States taking the liberty only to suggest that the office of the Governor and the duties of the Secretary are conceived to be so essentially connected as not to vary the opinion of the latter either in principle or practice

I am with great respect
Robt Williams

The Hon^ble James Madison
Secretary of State

From the Governor to the Auditor of Publick accounts for the Mississippi Territory

I Robert Williams Governor of the Territory aforesaid do certify that George Poindexter Attorney General for the Counties of Wilkinson Adams, Jefferson and Claiborne will have performed the duties of the office aforesaid for the of one year and six months up to the nineteenth of the present month for which he is entitled to the sum of one thousand and fifty Dollars

Given under my Hand at the Town of Washington this fifteenth day of May anoque domini one thousand eight hundred and five and in the twenty ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America

Robt Williams

From the Governor to Governor Claiborne

Washington M. T. May 22d 1805

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge by last ma
the receipt of your letter of the 8th Inst. as also the copy
a letter from the Secretary of State to yourself and
a correspondence between you and the Marquis of
Casa Calvo on the subject of Kempers insurrection

I have not heard any thing of this affai
lately- Should occasion require every exertion consiste
ly with my own duty and the honor and interest of the
United States shall be made by me to counteract any
thing of the kind

Accept my best respects

Robt Williams

Governor Claiborne

New Orleans

Proclamation

Mississippi Territory

By Robert Williams Governor of the
Mississippi Territory

It appearing to me that the publick interest requires tha
the Legislature of this Territory should be in Session befor
the time for their annual meeting

I therefore Issue this my proclamati
for convening the General Assembly on the first Monday
in July next and it is required of each Member to att
accordingly

Given under My Hand and the Seal
of the Territory at the Town of

Washington this twenty ninth day of
May in the year of our Lord one thousan
eight hundred and five and in the twenty
ninth year of the Independance of the
United States of America

Seal

Robert Williams

From the Governor
to G. Poindexter

Town of Washington June 6th 1805

Sir

Your note of yesterday has been received
in which you state that the Commission of the respective
Justices of the Peace in the several Counties of this Territory
have been considered by the late acting Executive as vacated
under the 54. section of an act passed by the last General
assembly "establishing certain Courts therein named and
regulating Judicial proceedings in this Territory" and urge
the expediency of renewing those Commissions

I believe Sir, such a construction of that
section of the act alluded to is not warranted by any
rule of legal interpretation and even were it doubtful
I should not incline to sanction a construction incompat
ble with the Legitimate powers of the Legislature

I therefore deem it unnecessary to take
any step respecting those Commissions till I shall know them
to be legally and constitutionally vacated and until then
it is expected that those officers will continue in the
discharge of their duties as regulated and defined by

the General Assembly.

I am with great respect

Yours

Robt Williams

George Poindexter Esquire

Del. Genl of the M. T.

from the Governor to the President

Washington M. T. June 8th 1805

Sir,

Since my last to you and the Secretary of State of the 17th ult. including a correspondence between West as Secretary and myself duplicates of which were sent on last mail. I have had no kind of correspondence with him except to receive the seal of this Territory neither has he been here and I yet remain without any aid or information from the official documents of this Territory. The enclosed paper contains a publication of that correspondence at the instance of Mr West in a very mutilated state as you may observe by comparison. What his objects are you as well as my self are to conjecture

The Legislature of this Territory is to be in session on the first Monday of next month

With sentiments of great respect

I remain yours

Robt Williams

Thos Jefferson

President of U. States

10.

From the Gouna to the Gouna Grand Pre' Washington ct. T. June 16th 1805

Sir

I have had the honor to receive your Excellency letter of the 29th ult. and sincerely regret the occasion

It cannot fail at all times to be a subject of the most serious concein to Nations in amity with each other that their citizens and subjects should be disposed or attempt to violate those rules essential to a mutual friendship and good understanding especially Nations the Territories of which are as contiguous as those of the United States and Spain

I lament very much a revivals of those disturbances which not long since menaced the tranquility of the Inhabitants of your Territory— What communication was made to my predecessor on this subject and what steps he took or whether any I am not at present advised

I most cordially reciprocate the disposition you manifest to support and maintain that harmony and concord happily subsisting between our Governments and on which depends the happiness of their citizens and subjects and your Excellency may be assured that no exertion on my part shall be wanting to prevent any party from receiving aid or assestance from the Territory of the United States for the purpose of molesting the rights of Spain and of your Territory

If acts hostile towards Spain or her Territory should commence in and proceed from our Territory or be

committed by Citizens of the United States or if an a
force is embodied or maintained therein with a design
of making any hostile attempt within the Territories of
Spain the Laws of the United States would be violated
and your Excellency may be assured that every exertion
in my power consistently with my duty should be mad
to have those who should thus offend brought to speedy
Justice and it is with much concern that I learn from
your letter that conduct of this kind has been winked
at by the Officers of this Territory

You may be assured Sir that I shall take
immediate steps to enquire into the conduct and intention
of Kimpin and his party and have them dealt with in
such a Manner as the rights of your Country and the
Laws of the United States may require

I am with great respect your Excellency
most obedient
Robt Williams

His Excellency
Charles de Grand Pre

From the Governor to
James Madison

Washington M. T. June 14th 1812

Sir

Enclosed is the copy of a letter from
Governor Grand Pre to myself also of my answer to the
same I am inclined to believe that the appre
hensions of the Governor at this time are founded on

exaggerated information information

I shall be glad to have your opinion and
advice on the subject of this letter and in the mean
time should occasion require I shall act in conformity
to the opinions stated in my letter to him

I have the honor to be,
With great respect Your

James Madison Esq.
Secretary of State

Robt Williams

From the Governor
Chas. B. Howell
V

Washington June 15th 1805

Sir

Your services as Auditor of Publick accounts
being no longer compatible with the Interest of this
Territory they are dispensed with - And I have thought
proper to appoint Beverly R. Grayson to fill that
office to whom you will deliver all things appertaining
to the same

I am with respect yours

Robt Williams

Charles B. Howell
Auditor of P. acct.

From the Governor to the Legislature of the Mississippi Territory

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council
and of the House of Representatives

I am sensible that your being convened at this time may be productive of some inconveniences in relation to your domestic concerns: but I have the fullest confidence that a desire to advance the publick interest, which ought to be paramount to every other consideration, will induce you cheerfully to submit to the temporary privations, that may result from this exigency

Although the entire omission of some of the ordinary objects of legislation during your last Session, might alone have Justified this measure, and no doubt induced you to anticipate it, yet, other considerations of immediate publick concernment, have had their influence informing my determination on this occasion

A subject of primary importance for your consideration, is the revisal of a Law passed at your last Session "Establishing certain courts therein named, and regulating "Judicial proceedings in this Territory." Experience will warrant me in saying and the annals of Legislation prove that after the most serious consideration, and the nicest circumspection, bestowed by the framers of Laws on their passage they will when carried into execution often be found too crude, to answer all the purposes intended. This more frequently happens with a Law so important in its nature and so general in its operation, as the one intended to be alluded to is the design of which is the establishment of a System of Jurisprudence the most essential, of any other, to a free people.

It is not my intention to discuss the remedies which are necessary to give that security to property & person which a Constitutional Government & Laws ought to afford; in reference to it, they will naturally occur to every Statesman. It is my duty to state, that instances of injustice have occurred, to refuse a due execution of the Laws, in consequence of a construction given to that part of the Act referred to which regulates and defines the duties of Justices of the Peace. To remove these obstacles, frequent applications have been made to me, requesting the interposition of the Executive Authority. These requests I could not accede to, without countenancing a construction contrary in my opinion to the letter of the Law, and the intention of the Legislature. For your information on this subject I refer you to a communication from the Attorney General, with my answer, which accompanies this Message: Should the course which I have pursued and advised in relation thereto, be found incorrect, it will remain for the Legislature to remedy the evil by rendering the Law more explicit.

I consider it expedient, Gentlemen, to call your particular attention to a subject heretofore partially acted on by the Legislature: I mean the designating some place, by Law, at which the principal publick offices of the Territory should be kept. Inconveniences have already been felt, and others of considerable magnitude are likely to arise, in consequence of the dispersion of those offices over

ain the Territory. In their present detached situ
ion it is extremely troublesome and expensive to the
Citizens, who may have occasion to resort to them to
have their business transacted. The offices of a Govern
ment may will be considered public property, and
must in a greater or less degree be connected, with
each other; they are created for the accommodation
and security of the people; to promote which end it
is important that they should be concentrated, and
permanently established, and not liable to be removed
from one situation to another, to suit the private
convenience of the individuals who may from time
to time fill them.

The allusion which I have made to objects
omitted during your last Session, relates principally to
the non-election of a Delegate to represent this Territory
in the Congress of the United States; to which I beg
leave to call your immediate and serious attention.
The general welfare of the Territory, the rights of its
Citizens, the faith of the Legislature, and the respon-
sibility of its members, require, that you should
proceed decisively, and with effect to the discharge
of this duty. The limited representation to which
we are entitled, in the Grand Council of the Nation
ought surely to excite as sedulously to embrace every
opportunity of improving the proportional benefits
resulting therefrom. The relative situation of
our Territory with the United States, renders it less

unfostered with us there could be an independant bar
to extend its views so far as subjects of this kind as
to create political distinctions, with which as yet
we have little to do and questions in which we
can have no agency. Should the case that no
unnecessary embarrassments will be created to thwart
the accomplishment of this essential measure and
that the impediments which on a former occasion
baffled your attempts, no longer exist

I should not Gentlemen so earnestly press
this subject were it not for the example of your
last Session, and an anxious solicitude on my part
that like difficulties may not again be yielded to, and
thereby render Executive interposition necessary in order
to afford the people of this Territory the obtainment
of their just rights.

Having recommended to your consideration
the principal objects for which you were convened; I
decline calling your attention to the general state of
the Territory; which it is expected will occupy a portion
of your time, upon a persuasion that your acquain-
tance with the wants of the Citizens, and the opera-
tion of the Laws already in force, will direct you
to make such regulations as may be found expedient
in the course of your deliberations. I give you
assurance, that should any matter arise or come
within my knowledge proper for Legislative
influence, the same shall be communicated
to you without delay

I will only farther remark, and have no doubt of your concurrence with me in the opinion that the state of our finances, renders economy, (which is at all times proper) indispensably necessary with us at the present crisis, and that effectual measures should be taken to restore the publick credit of the Country to that grade of respectability, which the wealth of its Citizens eminently entitles it to hold, and which is essential to inspire the people with a just confidence in those who may be entrusted with the management of their publick affairs. I therefore suggest the propriety, if possible, of dispensing with another Session of the Legislature during the present year

I can but express my regret at the want of harmony heretofore between the different branches of the Legislature, and its Members, which tended greatly to protract the despatch of publick business, and which has rendered this call indispensible. Nothing will afford me more satisfaction than to witness a different temper in future, of which I have the greatest confidence. No exertion on my part shall be wanting, to heal those political distractions so inimical to the general good and to promote unanimity and concord in every branch of the Government

You may rely Gentlemen on a cordial Co-operation of the Executive to carry all measures into effect which may be thought conducive of the Publick Weal.

Robert Williams

July 1st 1865

15

From the Govnr.
To the Legislative Council and House of Representatives

Gentlemen

I communicate, for the information of the General Assembly a letter from his Hon. Judge Lowry, relative to some amendments of the Judiciary act passed at your last Session as also to provide against the consequences, which will result from the County Court of Wilkinson having failed to hold its last session as directed by the said act

Robt Williams
July 9th 1805

From the Govnr to
Capt West Esqr. Secretary of the M.T. Town of Washington July 17th 1805

2 Sir

The Publick interest renders it necessary that I should require your speedy compliance with a Law of this Territory; to which end I enclose you a Copy by Capt. Hackaby

I am with due respect your

Robt Williams

Capt West Esqr
Secretary of the M.T.

From the Govnr
To John Shaw Esqr. Town of Washington July 20th 1805

Sir

I send you the full commission of Jefferson County Court retaining those Gentlemen Commissioned by Col. West who were Justices of the peace at the time the Laws passed

you will be so good as to assure, those Gen
who I understand were selected and not in the Commission
of the peace at the passage of the Law, (authorizing
this regulation) that no other motive has induced this
measure than that of a Compliance, on my part
with the letter of the Law and the intention of the
Legislature.

I'm with respt

Robt Williams

John Shaw Esq

Communication from the Governor
to the Legislative Council

July 22d 1805

Gentlemen

In Compliance with your resolution
of to day, I have only to observe that I am not inform
ed why the Laws of this Territory have not been distribute
agreeably to Law, nor am I possessed of the means which
will lead to that information

I have however furnished for the information
of the General Assembly, a correspondence between the
Secretary of this Territory and myself relative to my
obtaining a knowledge of the official and Executive
transactions of this Government Marked No 1.2.3.4.5.

"As to the Manner which have been
" taken to have the records and other publick docume
" of this Territory removed to the seat of "this Government
" agreeable to Law"

I refer you to the Documents herewith
furnished Marked No 6.7.8. the two last being Original
Letters are requested to be returned

Robert Williams

From the Governor } Washington July 22d 1805
to John Shaw Esqr.

Sir

Your having wilfully refused to hold the County Court of Jefferson County agreeably to the Laws of this Territory and thereby effecting a delay of Publick Justice and working considerable inconvinences to the people, make it necessary for me to apply the Constitutional corrective to prevent similar inconveniences in future

I do therefore revoke your Commission of Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum and of Chief Justice of the Orphans Court for the County of Jefferson

With due respect

I am

Robert Williams

John Shaw Esqr

A communication from the Governor } July 23d 1805
to the General Assembly

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and of the House of Representatives

I am informed that the Justices of Jefferson County Court have failed to hold the Term of said Court which ought to have commenced yesterday, agreeably to Law. It is therefore to the consideration of the Legislature whether some provision by Law ought not to be made to prevent consequences which may result from such

an Omission

Robt Williams

From the Governor to the
General Assembly } July 25 1805

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council
and of the House of Representatives

By the fifth Section of an act passed during your present Session it is made my duty as Governor to distribute the Laws of this Territory passed by the last General Assembly. It may be proper for me to inform the General Assembly that those Laws are not in my possession or under my control but as I am informed they are with the Secretary of this Territory, neither is it consistant for me to make any further attempts to obtain the records and publick documents in his possession belonging to this Territory, for your information on this subject I refer you to a communication I made to the Legislative Council on the 23d Inst. in compliance with their resolution on this subject

It remains for the wisdom and independance of the General Assembly of the Territory to secure obedience and respect to its Laws and provide that they should not be violated and disregarded with impunity. The Governor will only remark that it will not be in his power to carry the Law above alluded to into execution without Legislative aid as he does not mean to supply Omissions of Laws

Laws at the risque of committing his official
situation and the honor of the Legislature

Robt Williams

From the Governor
to Cato West } Washington July 30th 1805

Sir/

I enclose you a Law of the last General Assembly, the first section of which concerns you only in your official capacity. Should you not consider yourself in the office mentioned in that section - you will observe the second section makes it your duty to deliver to the Governor for the time being the records and publick documents belonging or appertaining to this Territory which may be in your possession and which you are not authorized by the Laws of the United States and Ordinance for the Government of this Territory to retain

I therefore demand of you to deliver all such records and documents to William B Shields Esqr. as my Secretary who is hereby authorized to receive them agreeably to the requirements of said act.

I am with due respect

Robt Williams

Cato West Esqr.

From the Governor to the Secretary of War

Town of Washington M. T. aug.t 3d 1805

Sir

There are two hundred and ninety Stand of Arms belonging to the United States in the Garrison near this place Mostly rifles they are all very much damaged with the rest, and many of them, perhaps ruined

I have directed them to be cleaned and shall have them taken the best possible care of and wait your Orders what shall be done with them— Perhaps they had better be sold or loaned to the Militia under certain regulations

I am informed some of them have been sold by the permission of the Secretary while acting as Governor but by what authority I do not know as I have not had access to any of the records and or publick documents belonging to this Territory since I came into office nor information from the Secretary as he has been at this place but once since I qualified and then only for the purpose of taking my Executive transactions to his House about 16 Miles off, which I did not permit

Enclosed are some accounts put into my hands, with a request to forward them on to you for payment the party says they were furnished Colo West for this purpose but by some means it has been neglected

The Indians are very troublesome

to the Inhabitants of this Territory by stealing in Considerable numbers through and destroying their corn and killing their Stock So much that some mischief has already ensued a man has been shot in his own field by them and dangerously wounded I shall be glad to hear from you on this subject

I am with due respect
yours

Robt Williams

The Hon^ble
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War

From the Governor to
Cloke Hunter

Washington Augst 9 to 1804

Sir

A complaint has been made to me by Mr Johnson Clerk of the Circuit Court of Wilkinson against you for some impropriety of conduct as Sheriff of that County

As I make it a point to give all officers an opportunity of Justifying in cases of this kind— I shall expect you will call on me shortly

I am your
Robt Williams

Cloke Hunter Esqr.
Sheriff of Wilkinson County

From the Governor
James Madison Esqr:
Sir

Town of Washington Ms. T. Aug.t 9. 180

The Legislature of this Territory adjourned the 25 ult.o after completing the objects for which it was convened

I have the honor to inclose you two laws relative to the publick officers of this Territory including that of the Secretary the first originated in consequence of Mr Wells the Secretary's conduct in carrying that office from this place as you have been informed by my communication of the 17.th of May and also his never coming near the Legislature or Governor during their Session except the day it met - The second imposing a penalty, was passed in consequence of his attempt to evade the first in a Manner which the inclosed documents Marked N.o 1, 2. 3 will shew and in this event the Territory would have been deprived of its Laws passed during the last annual Session of the General Assembly to a period altogether uncertain and depending on the arrival of his successor as the printed copies had been deposited with him for distribution and which had not been done except in a few instances - The law you will observe is so worded as not to infringe any constitutional or Legal right - On a demand being made agreeable to the Document: here with inclosed, marked N.o 4 the Col.o delivered the whole of the Records and Documents

Col West by his late conduct has lost all his popularity and compelled those who were disposed to adhere to him to relinquish. and we are all becoming very quiet

I am with due respect

Your Hum.e Serv.t

Robt Williams

James Madison Esq.

Secretary of State

P.S. Mr Williams has received his commission as Secretary and has been prevailed on to accept conditionally I suppose he will write you on this subject

R. W.

From the Governor to James Madison Esq. } Washington M. T. August 17 1805.

Sir

Since I have been acting as Governor I have been under the necessity of employing a person in the character of clerk or private Secretary to assist me in the discharge of the duties of that office can I be allowed for this. I find the Secretary Col West was allowed, / whilst acting without the Governor in this respect I have been acting without a Secretary

I will further observe that I am and shall be necessitated to continue to employ some person in that Character at all events as long as both Mr Williams the Secretary and myself shall be engaged in the said business as Commissioners — again

having leave from the President & return to N. Carolina for my family which I shall do in a few months it will be almost impossible for the Secretary to perform those respective duties without some assistance — an allowance for a Clerk to the department of this Government will be so arranged between the Secretary and myself as to answer both of us — We hope this request will be thought reasonable and granted at least till the Land Commission shall be over and until I can return from N° Carolina — Colo Hart has had his political frolic over and all things are quiet

I am with due respect

Robert Williams

James Madison Esq.
Secretary of State

Gov. Lucas Stanley

Washington July 22d. 1805

Sir — Your having wilfully refused to take the County Courts of Jefferson County, assembly to the Laws of this Territory, and thereby effecting a delay of Public Justice, and incurring considerable inconvenience to the People, makes it necessary for me to apply the Constitutional Correctives, to prevent similar inconveniences in future.

I do therefore hereby

your Commission of Justice of the Peace, and of the Quorum for the County of Jefferson.

with due Respt.

Jacob Hamsley Esqr.

Jam

Respectfully Yours

from the Governor
to Clerks Office - } Washington July 22d 1805.

Sir

Your having wilfully Refused to hold the County Court of Jefferson County agreeably to the Laws of this Territory and thereby effecting a delay of publick Justice, and working Considerable inconvenience to the People, makes it necessary for me to apply the Constitutional Correction, to prevent similar inconveniency in future.

I do therefore revoke your Commission of Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum for the County of Jefferson.

with due Respt

Sir

Your Obedt Hble Servt

P.S. two letters above ought to have been written after the letter to John Shaw, one for Jam Hughes in May 1804.

From the Governor to Capt. Richard Sparks } Natchez Sept.r 9th 1805 10 oClock at night

Sir

I arrived this morning from Washington to this place. I received your letter of the 7th Inst. with a despatch from Capt. Wilson

My answer to Capt Wilson I have sent open for your perusal which I pray you to forward immediately.

I request that you will retain and safely keep under Military authority the party that may be sent to you agreeably to my direction to Capt. Wilson until they are recd by the Civil Authority

Accept my hearty approbation for your and Capt. Wilsons attention on this occasion

I am with respect &c.

Robt Williams

Capt. R. Sparks
Fort Adams

From the Governor to Governor Grand Pre' } Town of Washington Mi. T. Sept. 16. 1805

Sir

I am informed that a number of armed men subjects of the King of Spain on the 3d Inst. entered this Territory in the neighbourhood of Pinckneyville and there with force and violence seized three persons by the names of Kemper a brother then in an inhuman manner tied and carried them into your Territory and threatened considerable

outrages to others in the same Neighbourhood

This conduct, Sir, does not comport with that good understanding and friendly disposition supposed to exist between our Governments neither is such conduct to be tolerated by a Government which is influenced in all its relations with others by a regard to Justice and National faith especially one so ample in resources to do Justice to itself and to command respect from others as the United States

This Letter Sir is despatched to you by a special Messenger in order that your Excellency may be speedily advised of this unwarrantable transaction and provide against similar outrages and their consequences as also to afford me some explanation of the one which has given rise to this letter

I am with great respect your

Robt Williams

His Excellency
Charles de Grand Pré

From the Governor to Capt. Welton

Washington M. T. Sept. 9th 1805

Sir

I this moment received your dispatch dated the 5th Inst. informing me of your having taken and confined a Spanish party which had on the night of the 30th Ult. forcibly taken from the

Territory the three Kempers whom the party had in their possession when you took them — you conduct in on this occasion meets approbation so far as I am informed of it

I request that you will with all possible despatch have conveyed to this Territory the whole of the offending party to be delivered over to the Civil authority also the Kempers — I request you will deliver them at Fort adams when further Orders will remain

Capt Sparks has informed me the reinforcement he sent you will also act as a guard for the above purpose

I enclose for your information the copy of an Order which I have this day issued in consequence of these outrages and others committed on the line Eastwardly from Pinckneyville

I am with respect Yrs

Robt Williams

Lieut W. Wilson

m the Governor & Mississippi Territory
es Madison Esqr

Town of Washington Sept 14th 1805

Sir

The enclosed affidavits marked No 1 to 11 inclusive will inform you of some outrages committed within this Territory by two Spanish parties — The letters marked No 1 to 5 and an Order to Colo Ellis will inform you of the steps which I have thought it advisable to take — The Messenger with my letters

to Governor Grand Pre' has not returned altho he was requested and undertook to be back by this morning - I have not rec'd any answer to my dispatch to you on this subject of the 14th of June

If Sir I am to resque any thing on this occasion it shall be in the defence of the liberties and the property of the Citizens and in the support of the Honor and Independence of my Government - And I hope the Measures taken and advised by me will not be found adverse to the views of the Executive or to the Interest of the United States

I am with great respect &c

Robt Williams

The Hon^ble

James Madison

Secretary of State.

The Governor to Daniel Ruth of Wilkinson County.

Washington Sept. 20. 1805

Sir,

I herewith enclose you a Commission as Provost of the Patrol in your County. I also send you the law regulating your duty.

The following you will consider

as my orders and instructions to you as authorized and required by the law.— You will in the first place raise ten of the citizens best qualified from the companies of Captains Randolph and Leightner, by voluntary enlistment, to serve as a patrol; and in case they cannot be thus raised, you will raise them by a draft from the two companies of militia above mentioned, taking an equal number from each. Your patrol thus raised you will cause to perform the duties required by law within your County.

Given under my hand at the Town of Washington this 20th day of September A.D. 1805

(signed) Robert Williams.

Daniel Keith.

The Governor
to the Secretary of War.

Washington M. T. Sept. 14. 1805

Dear Sir,

A dispatch which this day's mail carries on from me to the Secretary of State, will inform you of the particulars relative to some outrages lately committed by the Spaniards within

within this Territory; besides which I know nothing of importance to inform you.

I am with great respect
Your Humble Servant.
Signed Robert Williams.

The Hon.ble
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War.

From the Governor
To Major Joseph Johnson

Washington Sept. 21. 1805

Sir,

I have this moment received your letter of the 17.th instant by Mr. Denham; — the object of which is answered by an order which I sent to the Colonel of your County last monday by Major Davis, and which I expect you have before this.

As to reports relating to important objects, it is presumed the citizens, and especially officers, will place little reliance except through official channels.

I am with respect &c
Signed Robert Williams

Major Joseph Johnson.

The Governor
&c. Capt. Richard Sparks

Washington Sept. 23rd 18

Sir

I have received your letter of the 20th instant, informing me of the arrival of the prisoners from Point Coupee, at Fort Adams.

I request that they all may be delivered over to Judge Rodney or some Justice of the peace, to be examined as to any offences they may have committed within the limits of this Territory, or that may be cognizable by the civil authority thereof.

The Spanish subjects, to the number of six as I am informed, should they be discharged by the civil authority, I request that you will cause them to be escorted by a sufficient guard to the line dividing this Territory from that possessed by his Catholick Majesty, there liberated, and suffered to pass into his jurisdiction.

As to the Kempers I presume they will be dealt with as the law will authorize; and my hope is, that they may be bound to their good behaviour and to keep the peace, as well towards the citizens of the United States, as the subjects of his Catholic Majesty.

I accept

Accept my best respects and high consideration for your obliging attention in the course of this busines.

(Signed) Robert Williams.

Capt. Richard Sparks

Commanding at Fort Adams.

The Governor
To Judge Rodney

Washington Sept. 23.rd 1805

Sir,

Finding you had left this when I returned from Natchez, Mr. Shields follows on with my order to Capt. Sparks commanding at the Fort. Enclosed is a copy of my letter to him, indicative of the wish of the Executive of this Territory on the occasion, which I trust will be found compatible with the civil authority.

I am with respect
&c —
(Signed) Robert Williams

Judge Rodney.

17

From the Governor
To the Secretary of State

Washington M. T. October 1. 1805

Sir

By my communication of the 11th Ult.o you were informed of some outrages committed within this Territory near the Spanish line, and of the steps I had taken in relation thereto.

I have now the honor to enclose for your further information, Governor Grand Pré's letter in answer to mine of the 6th ult.o and my reply to him marked and numbered 1. and 2. — also the documents marked 1. 2. 3. which will inform you of the further steps taken in this affair.

The military Patrol which I ordered out on the lines were organized, and disbanded on holding themselves in readiness, places appointed to rendezvous under a standing order of the officers commanding, to check any disorder that might appear.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that things in that quarter have become very quiet and settled, which I believe would not have been the case, but for the measures which were authorized.

Some of our citizens were concerned in this business, and are bound over to Court for prosecution.

I am afraid affairs are not going on well in and about Orleans. Governor Claiborne was

called

called from here a few days ago by a letter from the Secretary Mr. Graham, urging him to return immediately, without assigning particular reasons; and I have not such information as will authorize me to even give an opinion.

I am really concerned for the personal safety of the Governor. — He was in so low a state of health as might have justified his not going down; — but his remark to me on the subject was, "I will go if I were sure to die the week after I get down." —

I have the honor to be

very respectfully

Yr. obt.

Signed Robert Williams.

The Hon.ble

James Madison

Secretary of State.

From the Governor
to Governor Grandpré

Washington September 30. 1805.

Sir

Your letter of the 9th instant in answer to mine of the 6th I received some days ago; — but the equivocal manner with which you treated the subject of my letter, afforded little or no information, and rendered it expedient to delay an answer until I should obtain such information relative thereto as would enable me to treat the subject with that candor which our respective situations require, and the interest and honor of our Governments demands.

Previous to the receipt of your letter I understood that the three Kempers were retaken by Lieutenant Wilson near Point Coupée, where they, together with the Spanish guard were detained. I gave orders for the removal of them and their escort to Fort Adams within this Territory. They have all been delivered over to the civil authority for examination as to their supposed offences committed within this Territory, or that might be cognezable by the civil authority thereof. And I now have the honor to inform you that the outrages which were the subject of my letter to you of the 6th instant, appear to have been committed by citizens of the United States in

combination.

combination with subjects of Spain residing within the jurisdiction of our respective governments all of whom are liable to be punished under the authority and laws of the United States and of this Territory. It also appears that the six persons subjects of Spain composing the escort, to-wit —

William Barker, Charles Stewart, John Morris, John Ratcliff, George Rose, and Adam Bingaman, were accessories and confederates with the offending party, and might have been legally treated as such by this Government. But being desirous to keep alive and promote that harmony and good understanding subsisting between the government of the United States and that of his Catholic Majesty; and also because, from the sceptical stile of your letter it is not clear whether the act was authorized, I have caused those six men composing the escort to be liberated and safely conducted to the Territory possessed by his Catholic Majesty. The Keepers of whom your Excellency complains as having been the original authors of those outrages, I have caused to be bound to their good behaviour, and to keep the peace towards your Government its subjects &c.

I trust I shall prove to your Excellency,

Excellency that in a few days after the date of my letter of the 6th instant to you, I received information that some days before, a party of twelve men armed, commanded by Lieut. Glascock, part of Capt. Jones' Company of Spanish Light horse entered this Territory in the neighbourhood of Tickfaw Creek and there threatened considerable abuse to some of the inhabitants, seized and carried by force from their house of dwelling, a man by the name of William Flanagan Junr. and his wife, into the Territory possessed by his Catholic Majesty whom they detained a considerable time, and on their releasment, took and kept a horse, bridle, and saddle, belonging to the said Flanagan, and which I am informed have been since sold under the order of an officer of your Government.

I request your Excellency will enquire into this affair, and give me an answer as soon as convenient.

I trust the lenient measures which I have caused to be pursued on this occasion, will be duly appreciated, and attributed to the proper motives; and that your Excellency will unite with me in adopting such measures as will prevent similar occurrences in future.

I Your

Your Excellency demands of me the three Kempers, as your prisoners, taken as you say "within this jurisdiction, where a most singular "event had brought them". Permit me Sir, without criticising on the merits of this demand which it is so susceptible of, to barely suggest as a reason for my non compliance, the consequences which would necessarily flow from a compliance with demands made under such circumstances, and founded on transactions of this kind.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Yr. Mo. Ob. —

(Signed) Robert Williams.

His Excellency.
Charles De Grandpré.

From the Governor
To Andrew Marschalk } Mississippi Territory.

Sir,

Inclosed is a commission to you as Provost of the Patrol for the City of Natchez.

You will raise by voluntary enlistment six citizens best qualified in your opinion, to act as a patrol, and in case they cannot be thus raised, you will take by a fair allotment from the companies of Captains Vos and Burnet the number of six persons, — three from each, to act as aforesaid.

You will observe and patrol within the limits of the City of Natchez, with the whole or any part of your patrol, three days in each week, or as often as circumstances, in your opinion may require, having a due regard to the laws authorizing your appointment in this respect — And this you are to receive as my orders, under the law of this Territory.

Given under my hand at the Town of Washington the 1st of October 1805.

(Signed) Robert Williams.

Capt. Andrew Marschalk.

By Robert Williams

Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

To the Sheriffs of Jefferson and Claiborne Counties Greeting.

Whereas John Shaw esqr a member of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly of this Territory from the County of Jefferson, has resigned his seat:—

I do therefore issue this writ, directing you and each of you, to hold an election conformably to law, on the eighteenth and nineteenth days of this month, to elect a member to fill the vacancy occasioned thereby.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Territory, at the Town of Washington this third day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred and five and in the thirtieth year of the Independence of the United States of America

Seal

By the Governor.

Wm R. Williams Secr.

Signed Robert Williams.

From Governor Williams
To Governor Grandpré

Washington M. T. Oct.r 12. 1805

Sir,

Your letter of the 9.th ultimo I received some days ago, in which you inform me a person by the name of Joseph Sharp has been murdered by a certain William Flanagan, in the house of Peter Lawrence, but within what jurisdiction you have not stated.— that he the murderer is in this Territory; and request that I will have him arrested and delivered to your Government.

I now have the honor to inform you that I have made an enquiry respecting the subject of your letter, and find that a man by that name passed through this Territory in the neighbourhood of Bayou Pierre some weeks past, to the State of Tennessee, and it is reported he was an accomplice of a man lately executed in that neighbourhood for murder, and that he was accessory to the fact.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Yr. Mo. Ob. Humble Servt.

His Excellency
Governor Grandpré.

(Signed) Robert Williams.

No. 7

From the Governor
To John Foster
} Mississippi Territory

Sir,

Inclosed is a commission for you as Provost of the Patrol in Adams County.

You will proceed to raise by voluntary enlistment ten citizens best qualified in your opinion, to act as a patrol within said County, and in case they cannot be thus raised, you will immediately apply to me for further orders.

Having raised your patrol, you will proceed in performing your duty within the limits of your County agreeably to law, and with the whole or any part of your patrol as often as may be necessary to carry into effect the laws authorizing your appointment, and this you are to consider as my orders issued conformably thereto.

Given under my hand at the Town of Washington this 15th day of Oct. 1805.

Signed Robert Williams

From the Governor
& the Secretary of State } Washington Mi. T. Nov.r 4. 180

Sir I For several weeks past I have expected the land business would have been in such forwardness as to admit my starting to North Carolina the next, but it turns out to be such a perplexing business as to baffle all reasonable calculation; — however, my final determination was to have started about this time; but the last mail from New-Orleans brought me a letter from Governor Claiborne (a copy of which I inclose) confirming some reports in circulation here relative to our Spanish neighbours which has determined me not to leave the Territory 'till Congress meets, and until I can hear from our Government, and know what is likely to be our political standing with Spain, which I hope to know by the first of January, by which time I expect to have nearly completed the land business, so far at least as it can be, previously to the surveying; after which I shall immediately start for North Carolina, should not the situation of affairs demand my remaining.

On

On receiving this Government I found the militia in such a state of disorder as to render it impracticable to have them yet organized tho' I am making every exertion to that effect, and which I hope to have completed in a very short time.

We have several volunteer companies of horse, composed of the most wealthy and active men amongst us, who hold themselves in readiness, and I am persuaded would render services equal to any, if called upon.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that there is at present more unanimity and concord amongst the people of this Territory, than at any other period since the American government, and perhaps as much if not more harmony towards the general government than in any other quarter.

I have not had the honor of an answer to any of my letters or communications addressed to you since my appointment as Governor.

I have the honor to be with
much respect
Yr. Ob. Servt.
(Signed) Robert Williams.

The Hon. ble
James Madison
Secretary of State

P.S. I will you be so good as to give Mr Gallatin the perusal of this letter as I have not time to write him now.

A. M.

From the Governor
To the Secretary of War

Washington M. T. Nov 14. 1865

Sir,

Before this reaches you I have no doubt you will have received complaints against Joseph Chambers agent to the Choctaw Indians, and perhaps founded on a presentment of the Grand Jury for that County. Understanding this it excited my enquiry, not only as regarded the interest of the United States and my duty as an officer, but as respected the opinion which has ever been entertained of Mr Chambers as a man of the strictest integrity and sense of honor, founded no doubt as well on his own correctness of principle and purity of heart, as on that of his very respectable family— And Sir, I can with pleasure assure you that the result of my enquiry has been to confirm my good opinion of Mr Chambers, and that his conduct has been such as to merit a

continuation

continuation of that confidence which has been heretofore extended towards him by the Government. I have had more than an ordinary opportunity of obtaining a knowledge of Mr. Chambers conduct as Agent. — The Secretary of this Territory, Mr. Thomas H. Williams resided with, and about Mr. Chambers all last summer and until late in November — had access to, and assisted in keeping his books of accounts &c. who informs me that he never saw or knew of any thing relating to his conduct as agent which could in the least degree warrant a censure against him.

I am persuaded that the Government would sustain a loss were Mr. Chambers to quit his station, because I believe it is not easy to get a man of his integrity and talents to fill such an appointment, and it is one that affords many opportunities of abuse.

This presentment must have arisen from some erroneous or mistaken notion of his duties; and the people are in a degree dissatisfied with the Indians coming so much amongst them.

I am with sentiments of great respect &c.
Signed Robert Williams

The Hon'ble
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War

From the Governor
To the Secretary of State

Washington Mi. T. Novem. 12. 1806

Sir,

Since my dispatch of last week to you, I have been informed from a source which may be relied on, that four thousand Spanish troops are destined for the Floridas, and that five hundred will be immediately sent to Baton Rouge. —— Also, that considerable military preparations have commenced between Natchitoches and the province of Texas, and that the foundations of two very considerable fortifications have been formed — one within about two days journey of Natchitoches, and the other at the Sabine River, — besides a number of intermediate military stations.

I have the honor to be
respectfully
Your Humble Servant
Signed Robert Williams

The Honble
James Madison
Secretary of State

No. 19

From the Governor
To Charles De Grandpré

Washington Mississippi
Territory, November 15. 1805

Sir

In my letter to you of the 30th
September, I informed you of an outrage
committed by some of the light horse of his
Catholic Majesty within this Territory on the
neighbourhood of Tickfaw creek, and of their
having taken a horse bridle and saddle the
property of a Mr. Flanagan a citizen of this
Territory residing within it. — That the same
had been sold by the order of an officer of
your Government, and requested of your
Excellency to make an enquiry relative
thereto, and inform me as soon as convenient
I now Sir have the honor to inform
you that I have not received any answer
from you on the subject; — and Mr.
Flanagan the injured man having applied
to me to know how he is to be compensated
for the injury and loss of his property I take
the liberty of addressing you this letter for
the purpose of obtaining compensation to the
individual for the loss of his property, in such
way as may be thought most advisable by you
and in order that your Excellency may be

more

more fully informed of the circumstances, and the latter enabled for the amount of compensation, I have directed Mr. Flannagan to be himself the bearer of this letter, assuring him that your Excellency will take immediate measures to have him compensated for the loss of his property.

The duties of governments in amity with each other in case of this kind are too well understood and appreciated by your Excellency to need any illustration by me.

I have the honor to be

respectfully

Your most obed.

His Excellency
Charles Dee Grandpré

(Signed) Robt Williams

Mississippi Territory.

Whereas by the 12th section of a law of the United States, passed the 3d of March 1803 - entitled "An act regulating the grants of land, and providing for the disposal of the lands of the United States, south of the State of Tennessee among other reservations for the support of schools and

and

and the use of Jefferson College, are "such Town lots not exceeding two in the Town of Natchez and of such an outlot adjoining the same, not exceeding thirty acres, as may be the property of the United States, to be located by the Governor of the Mississippi Territory for the use of said College"—

And Whereas in order to ascertain the claims to lands, and know such as are vacant, Commissioners have been appointed by virtue of the above recited law, and until they shall have completed the object of their appointment it cannot be known what portion of land, or which particular tract is vacant and the property of the United States.— And the late Governor of this Territory William C. C. Claiborne, and late West whilst Secretary of the same, in the absence of the Governor aforesaid, having on the second and twenty second days of December 1803 respectively, located two lots in the said City of Natchez" and also an outlot of thirty acres adjoining the same, for the purposes aforesaid; to which said two lots and outlot of thirty acres, sundry claims are made and still depending before the proper authorities, whereby it is rendered uncertain whether the

the said two lots and outlot aforesaid, will be declared the property of the United States; until which the locating of them may hazard the interest of the College, and has already very much retarded its advancement by involving it nominally in disputes and an investigation respecting titles, which in substance are depending between the respective parties claimant, and the United States; and before which decision the College can derive no claim and right of title to the same in virtue of the said 12th section of the before cited act.—

In order therefore that the interest of the said College may not be jeopardized, and the Governor for the time being embarrassed should any, or a part of said lots located as aforesaid be found not to be the property of the United States; and in as much as the right of the College to the same is a vested one from the 3rd of March 1803— and cannot be affected by any subsequent claim or after-disposition;— and that the locations as authorized by the above 12th section of the law aforesaid, may be made to the greatest possible advantage for the use of the College, as soon as the land the property of the United States shall be

regularly

regularly ascertained, and because the locations aforesaid were premature,

I Robert Williams Governor of the Mississippi Territory, do by these presents, withdraw both of the said locations made as aforesaid, thereby declaring the right of Jefferson College to be the same as though they had never been made.

Given under my hand at the Town of Washington in the Territory aforesaid, this 18th day of November 1805.

(Signed) Robert Williams

From the Governor
To Isaac Briggs esq.
Mississippi Territory
Washington Nov. 19th 1805

Sir

Enclosed you have my act withdrawing the two locations made and deposited in your office, by the late Governor Claiborne and late West Secretary for the use of Jefferson College.

I am with respect
Yrs &c.
Signed Robert Williams

Isaac Briggs
Surveyor of the Lands of the U. S.
south of the State of Tennessee.

From the Governor
to William Lattimore Esq.

Mississippi Territory
Washington Nov: 19th 1805

Sir,

Inclosed is a procedure which I am convinced the interest of Jefferson College renders expedient, and I trust it will meet the approbation of yourself and those who are friendly to that intended institution.

Altho' I am not disposed to think that any of the consequences which it is probable might have resulted from the location made by the late Governor and Secretary, could, in a legal point of view, have ultimately impaired the right of the College to the donation of two lots in the City of Natchez, and an outlot of thirty acres adjoining, it certainly tended to hold the college up as a party in the litigation about title, and might create some doubts and embarrassments relative to making other or further locations, in case it should be found necessary, when lands the property of the United States become to be known.

Again — from a more complete knowledge of what land will be found to be the property of the United State, adjoining Natchez, than perhaps was possessed at the time of making those locations,

location; as also from the approaching destruction of the present landing for the Ohio occasioned by the Mississippi's tearing away its bank, I am confident a more advantageous location of the outlot or a part thereof, will become practicable.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
(yr. ob.
(Signed) Robert Williams.

Wm. Lattimore esq
Congress.

From the Governor
To John Burnet esq.

Washington Nov: 20. 1805.

Sir,

The buildings at the Fort near Natchez, being the property of the United States— in order the better to preserve them from going to further ruin, I wish you to rent them for six months to commence from the 1st of next month, except the old Block House, which I wish you to sell as timber to be taken away— the proceeds of both you will account to me for as soon as received.

(Signed) Robert Williams.

John Burnet esq
Sheriff of Adams County

From the Governor
To the Secretary of State

Washington Mi. T. Nov.r 26. 1805

Sir,

The citizens in that part of this Territory composing Washington County, are becoming very restless in consequence of the treatment they have lately received from the Spanish authorities.

I have used my influence to keep them quiet, which thus far has been successful; but I am really doubtful it will not be the case long if those authorities continue to conduct themselves as heretofore.

They say one of two things must be done — either to abandon the county, or protect and defend their property in its way to New Orleans, which the Spaniards inhibit and very much embarrass by imposing duties &c.

In some instances I am informed, after receiving the duties, they have under certain pretences, taken the whole cargo. For your further information on this subject, I herewith enclose a representation made to me from some of the most respectable and influential

characters

characters residing in that quarter.

I have the honor to be
with much respect
Yr Humble Servt

Signed Robert Williams

The Hon^ble
James Madison
Secretary of State

Message from the Governor
To the Legislature.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
and of the House of Representatives.

This being the first ordinary occasion
we have had to meet in the character of
legislators, I congratulate you on the very
flattering prospect of the rise and progress of
our Territory in a manner the most favorable
to the establishment and permanency of a free
government and to fix and promote the happiness
of a growing and intelligent people: That the

country composing our Territory is superior to many and inferior to but few in natural advantage fertility of soil, and salubrity of climate, and in which the hand of industry is so amply rewarded as to prevent even the negligent from want and to supply the diligent with affluence are circumstances which cannot but afford pleasing reflections: that the bounteous proceeds of our agricultural pursuits for the present year, ought to be the cause of much felicitation, and certainly demand our mutual gratulations, and for which it becomes us to unite in offering up to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, our unfeigned thanks for his providence, and the enjoyment of those blessings, so essential to our national prosperity and individual happiness.

Although, fellow citizens, our legislative powers are considerably limited and controlled by those of the general government, yet they are competent to the making of most laws and regulations promotive of our happiness, and for the protection of our rights. We have the consolation to know that this limit is fixed by a government founded on republican principles, and administered by the federated will of the people; and the present

administration

administration we have abundant reason
believe, is solicitously engaged in promoting
our interest and that of the western country in
genral with which by nature we are, and
must continue to be, united in point of
political and commercial interest: the
extension of our limits, and the measures which
have been taken and are pursuing to remove
all imbarrasments to a free trade, and an easy
and safe communication and intercourse
with each other, and with our neighbours:
the rapid growth of our Territory for a few years
past, and the vast improvements in almost
every branch of busines evince this, as also
the influence and effect different governments
have on communities, and particularly the
superiority of that of the United States, over those
governments under which this country has
alternately passed.

As our importance and the improvements
and advantages we experience have increased
in proportion to the preference our present gover
of government has to that previously afforded us,
we have a right to expect they will continue
in a comparative ratio on renewing the next

and

and superior grade to which I hope we shall soon be entitled; the obtainment of which in point of time, may very much depend on our political character and those laws and regulations which we may form. For as a just and wise parent will forego the legal maturity of his son to the management of his portion only in proportion to his discretion and ability, so ought we to presume will be regarded any anticipation of our adoption into the union of the states, and it may be necessary that our political character and attachment to republican principles should be such as to inspire a just confidence in our formation of self-government — that it will be such as the United States are bound to guarantie unto us — republican.

It is not enough for the happiness of a people that they are favoured with natural advantages: much still remains for them to do. Experience teaches that those means which are calculated to afford the greatest blessings, are also capable of producing the worst of evils by an abuse and misapplication of them, and that we may be miserable as a people and contemptible as a nation amidst the greatest earthly enjoyments

and

superior wealth. This it behoves the constituted authorities to provide against, which can only be done by a proper inculcation of civil and political knowledge, to which a regular and well directed course of education is necessary, patronized by and under the superintendence of the public authority. I know an opinion is entertained by some, and in many parts it has been fatally prevalent, that literary institutions established on those principles, favour most the higher orders and more wealthy part of a community. Perhaps no opinion can be more erroneous; the reverse is the fact. The rich have the means of acquiring information wherever it may be, even in foreign countries — while the needy and more moderate circumstances cannot. Thus an inequality of talents and knowledge is effected between those to whom nature has been equally bountiful as to point of intellect, and by which the management of the most important public affairs that cannot be well conducted without certain acquired qualifications, will be confined to a particular class of the citizens, and the community deprived of the services and talents of many who would, if afforded an opportunity, have formed luminaries in the political firmament; but who are consigned to

to oblivion, and whose talents remain obscured in the darkness of a mistaken and contracted policy: That this kind of polity will not prevail with us I rely with the utmost confidence.

If we wish to inspire our youth with a love of country and an attachment to our political principles and forms of government as also an acquaintance with our manners and customs, to imbibe our habits and to become useful citizens, they should be educated amongst us, and the rudiments of learning fixed whilst young; for such is the formation of the human mind that early or fast impressions are not easily eradicated, and are very apt to be retained through life. Far be it from me to suppose that travelling and an acquaintance with the world ought not to compose a part of polite and useful education; for we very frequently see men of letters, but not of learning. They bring into practice what studious attention has matured in theory, and afford us an opportunity of appreciating the advantages and of correcting the errors of our own government, by a comparison with those of others.

A nation will always flourish in proportion to its information and acquaintance with the arts and sciences. Learning is the habitation of true

piety

piety, the protector of morals, and the life of [illegible]
freedom, whatever may be the forms of government.
And gentlemen, give me leave to say that we
have every encouragement and support from the
general government on this subject which the most
sanguine expectations can form; and in no instance
has it's care and regard for our future prosperity
and permanent happiness been more apparent
than on the subject of schools. The liberal
donations which it has made are sufficient
to lay the foundation of, and afford the future
support to, the most flourishing seminaries of
learning, and ought certainly to have prevented
that apathy in some which has tended to impede
the progress of our College institution. How far,
or whether it may be proper to anticipate the
proceeds of those funds so as to start the institution,
remains for the wisdom of the Legislature to determine.

On the subject gentlemen, of legislation
generally, I will take the liberty to remark that
in a government founded on republican principles,
where reason and philosophy constitute it's polar
objects, laws should breathe the spirit of moderation,
justice and virtue; They should discountenance
[illegible], vice and immorality, and encourage industry,
learning,

learning and morals, the influence of which in society proportionably superceder the necessity of many laws. Nor should laws be made so much with a view to punishment, as to inhibit the commission of crimes. Punishments when inflicted should be more for example than otherwise, to which end they should be mild in their operation and certain in their execution. They should bear a due proportion to the magnitude of the offence, and to the nature of the injury done to the public and safety of society, as also to the degree of wickedness in the offender. When this is not the case the due execution of them is frequently evaded, or the force and effect of example lost in the lastingness of their execution, and in the cruelties of punishments.....

Sanguinary laws are not congenial to the principles of a free government, nor are they adapted to the genius of the American people, for since their laws are made for the safety of the county and the protection of its citizens, they ought not to exceed, what that safety and protection require.

And although the despised situation of the inhabitants of many parts of our continent,

and

and the want of pecuniary resources may
prevented the adoption of more mild crimi
laws, and compelled the enacting and continu
enforce such as their judgments do not approv
yet I hope we shall see the day when sanguin
laws will be blotted out of our criminal code
and that we shall no longer be under the
necessity of inflicting and justifying punishments
at which humanity and reason revolt on the
very false ground, that the guilty knew previous
the penalties of the law.

Next, gentlemen, to the making
such laws and regulations as are necessary
to the formation of civil and political society
ought to be the providing for its defence and
to guard against those attacks and disorders
to which it is subject and which bid defiance
to the civil authorities. The most eligible
mode of doing which must always very much
depend on the principles and character of the
government, and also the portion of liberty its
members enjoy. In a government founded on
and administered by the will of the people to
which their affections, and not their fears

bind

bind them, and where equal rights are afforded, a militia composed of the citizens themselves constitute the most safe and cheap mode of defence. This being one of the most prominent features in our constitution and the policy of which seems to be so well understood and so generally acceded to, that I deem it unnecessary to advance any thing in further illustration.

But, gentlemen, I should not feel satisfied as to the discharge of my duty on this subject were I not to call your attention to our peculiar situation which demands our greatest attention towards organizing the militia so that they may be in an immediate and constant state of readiness. Our insulated position occasioned as well by a foreign power, as by a vast extent of wilderness country inhabited only by numerous savage tribes, deprives us of the hope that any immediate assistance could be afforded us by our brethren from other quarters in cases of emergency. Again, such is the character of a very considerable portion of the population of this and our neighboring Territory as ought to be the occasion of no small degree of

concern

concern, and of which, motives of policy for
a further and more explicit explanation.
Permit me therefore to recommend to your
early attention a revision of our militia and
patrol laws, the latter of which is found incon-
sistent to execute as also very expensive to
the Territory if carried into operation so as
to be adequate to the purposes intended.

It is, gentlemen, conducive to the public
weal and the peace and quiet of the people
that there should be as few laws as possible.
Many laws indicate the depravity of society,
for they are not made for the virtuous, but
for the vicious, and to protect and enforce
the rights of the former, against the attacks and
injustice of the latter. It is also of much importance
that laws should be intelligible, not too
complex and sufficiently promulgated amongst
the people. I will therefore suggest the expediency
of a compiled digest of the laws now in force in
our Territory authorized by the General Assembly
as may be thought most advisable. The structure
of our government is such and the mode of
adopting

adopting it's laws have been so various as to render a measure of this kind almost indispensible to the proper understanding of them, and to know which are in force here, especially as regards those introduced and adopted under the first grade of government, some of which were even then contested on constitutional grounds.

Among the local objects proper for the attention of a government, few are more important than the establishment and keeping in repair public roads or high ways. Nothing evinces more the advanced state of society, and the degree of industry in a country than its improvements in this way; yet it is too frequent, that they are placed among those of minor consideration, and are the last attended to, arising perhaps from too contracted a view of our appreciated and future interest, and a disposition to enjoy an immediate and individual compensation for the labour which we bestow on those objects. Hence in this, as in many other respects, laws are necessary prescribing what is proper to be done, and compelling the citizens to contribute their aid. In countries which have excelled in the improvements of their high ways

high ways, and to effect which the negative from the people have been so great as to prod ever decisively, yet have they on experiencing the benefit resulting therefrom, approved and become admirers of the policy. It is not however expected with any that improvements of this kind at present ought to be forced beyond what the state of population will justify, and the ability of the people can perform. You are all so materially and individually interested in this subject as to leave no doubt but that a due proportion of your deliberations will be directed towards effecting your present design.

As to our fiscal affairs, a statement which will be laid before you by the Auditor of public accounts will furnish the amount and application of the Territorial debt. A report from the Treasurer which will also be laid before you containing estimates of receipts and expenditures of the public revenue, and the sources from which it is drawn, will serve afford satisfactory information relative to the state of our finances, and such as will enable you to adopt the most eligible modes for improving the revenue,

and

and for the extinguishment of the publick debt of the Territory. And I am happy to know that this debt will be found conciderably less in amount than it was previously calculated to be.

A general list shewing the proportion of present rate and quantum of taxation bears to the estimated value of property liable to be taxed under the present system of revenue which I shall lay before you at an early day, affords the most favourable expectation, that this debt may be extinguished in a very short time, without producing any inconvenience to the inhabitants, who I am conscious will chearfully yield a portion of the proceeds of their labours to be applied to useful and necessary purposes. The people of a country are seldom indisposed to taxation if the monies arising therefrom are judiciously collected and properly expended.

In forming revenue laws and systems of taxation, economy is of primary importance, and should be the next in consideration to that of their necessity. Perhaps an ad valorem tax is the most equitable in an individual point of view, but the expense and delay generally attendant on the execution of such a system tends frequently to defeat in a considerable degree, the object intended.

- Taxes

Taxes should not only be proper and necessary but productive. Whenever this is not the case however just and proper they may be in principle their continuation becomes unjust and impolitic. In forming a revenue system regard should also be had to the situation of property and the state of population. In countries where the population is complete, property assumes a more uniform and relative value than in a dispersed and thinly settled country. I am persuaded our present revenue law will be found too expensive in its operation. For I believe about one fourth part of the revenue first to be collected under the present system will be expended before it can be collected and applied to the purposes intended: that this expense with a very small exception, will be annual, and in effect increase in a ratio proportionate to any diminution of revenue which ought to take place as the present territorial debt shall be extinguished.

Having, gentlemen, on a former occasion urged to you the propriety of providing for the payment of the debt of the Territory, which from its unliquidated state at that time, you thought it most advisable to postpone til the amount should be known, I permit

permit me again to recommend to your attention the expediency of the measure, which the abilities of the citizens of this Territory so fully justify — and also that you will provide a less expensive mode of ascertaining and assessing the taxes which become necessary. In doing which you will no doubt provide for the accountability of the public officers who may have the collection and management of the revenues, so as to prevent in future such delinquencies and impositions as have heretofore taken place; some of which are of such a nature as to partake of the character of peculation, and certainly merit exemplary punishment the particulars of which shall be laid before you in the course of the present session.

These, fellow citizens, are the principal objects which I deem necessary and proper to be recommended to your consideration. Should any others occur during your session, they shall be communicated without delay. But you will in the discharge of your legislative functions take a more comprehensive view of the interest of our Territory and the wants of its citizens. I readily

readily perceive that in the discharge of your duties, many objects proper for your attention may be embraced, which I have omitted to notice, all of which I trust will be equally attended to in the course of your deliberations. And I give you assurances of a sincere co-operation on my part in all measures tending to advance the interest and prosperity of our infant country, and to promote the happiness of its citizens.

(Signed) Robert Williams.

December 2nd 1805.

From the Governor to the House of Representatives.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

John Shaw esquire a member of your house from the County of Jefferson, having resigned his seat in the same, writs of election were issued for the purpose of electing a member to fill the vacancy occasioned thereby.

Dec. 3rd 1805. (Signed) Robert Williams.

From the Governor to the Legistature.

Gentlemen of the Legistative Council
and House of Representatives.

I have to communicate for your information
a letter from the Honble John Page Governor of the
State of Virginia, in answer to the communication
of Gato. West esqr. "on the subject of the Hospital
establishment in the City of Natchez," made in
conformity to a resolution of the Legistative Council
and House of Representatives at their last ordinary
Session; — and also a report of the President
& directors and Company of the Bank of the
United States, accompanying a letter from the
President thereof to Gato West esq. Secretary of
the Mississippi Territory, in answer to his —
communication to the President of the said
Bank, made "for the purpose of obtaining information
and ascertaining the manner and terms on which
an office of Discount and Deposit could be
established in the City of Natchez," agreeably to
a resolution of the Legislative Council and House
of Representatives, adopted at the same Session.

th
December 9. 1805

/signed/ Robert Williams.

From the Governor to the Legislature

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives.

In conformity with the laws of your last annual Sesion, I now lay before you a genral list of the assessment of taxes for the sunal county within this Territory.

/Signed/ Robert Williams.

December 12. 1805.

From the Governor to the Legislature

Gentlemen, of the Legislative Council, and house of Representatives.

I now communicate for the information of the General Assembly, two documents with an accompanying statement, No. 1. 2. & 3 which will tend in some degree to shew, how far the conduct of the officer therein referred to, has been correct in collecting and accounting

accounting for the publick monies by him recieved.

It may also be proper to inform the Legislature, that within a few days past the original return to the Territorial Treasurer, taxes collected and accounted for, and to which the statements herewith refer, has been withdrawn and detained by the officer implicated, from the Treasurer's office, and another substituted.

How far this may effect any enquiry which may be deemed expedient on this subject, the Legislature will determine.

Dec.r 18. 1805 /Signed/ Robert Williams.

From the Governor to Governor Grandpré.

Mississippi Territory

Washington Co.y 19.th 1805

Sir,

Your letter of the 30.th ult.o I received by the hand of Mr. Kline, in answer to a part of my letter of the 30.th of September, and also to my letter of the 15.th of November relative to the treatment of a certain Williams Flanagan in the neighbourhood of Pickens, whether

written this Territory, by a Spanish subject.

Although your report of this affair differs very much from that which was made to me judicially, by the Hon.ble Thomas Rodney one of the Superior Judges of this Territory, I am not disposed at present to consider it in relation to any information other than that which you have given, especially as my application to you was for information on the subject, and to ascertain what aid or countenance the transaction received from your government or any of its' officers.

As to your other letter of the same date in answer to mine of the 30.th of September, were it not that you might conclude me to be wanting in point of respect, or that your complaints are too well founded to be refuted, and that the acknowledgment of an omission of duty on my part would be the result of a candid answer, I should not have consented to give any — its' object being so adverse to the laws of nations, the principles of this government and its' administration; nor shall I

now

now notice that part of your letter comprising the second and third paragraphs, except to remark, that it seems to evidence a temper not the most favourable to candor, or worthy high official station, however suitable to an individual character: neither am I disposed to regard your allusions to my letter of the 6th of September in a stile by no means compatible with the etiquette of official intercourse, it having been previously answered by you, and more especially as what you have now said by way of supplement, does not explain or relate to the subject of our then correspondence.

That part of your letter to which it becomes me to attend, commences with the following paragraph— "The repeated injuries to to which the subjects of his Catholick Majesty in this jurisdiction, are exposed compel an appeal to your Excellency's authority for a prompt remedy, it being impossible longer to tolerate the frequent outrages committed by the subjects of the United States— I will here recapitulate them."

This is the first application or knowledge I have had of them: (except that I heard Capt. Percy remark in a casual conversation that the

(Memfis

Kimpers had made use of rude language to him as he passed Pinckneyville) and this recapitulation as you are pleased to term it consists,—

1st Of the arrest of one Ewing within your jurisdiction by Waggoner and others who brought him into this Territory, where you suppose he was assassinated.

2nd That a Philip Gray on his way to Pinckneyville was assaulted by Stephen McCormick and others.

3rd That Lieutenant Johnson from Fort Adams with a Corporal proceeded seven miles within your jurisdiction in pursuit of a deserted soldier.

4th That two wandering natives of the Province of Mexico residing at Point Coupee, stole a parcel of sawed plank from the opposite side of the river in your jurisdiction belonging to an inhabitant thereof, and that upon an application to the Judge for redress none could be obtained.

5th That Robert Percy an Aleade of the settlement of Feliciana, on his way to Natchez, was

was insulted within the Territory, by one Dennis Chisholm, and that on his return as he passed through Pinckneyville, Reuben, Nathan and Samuel Kemper assaulted him with injurious words and menaces.

You now claim of me to make the necessary provisions for the justice that is due upon each of these points. I must confess Sir, that so frivolous are most of the injuries and outrages of which you complain, and so untimely and improper is your request for my interference at this time that to treat it with candor may, perhaps, to you have the appearance of ridicule.

You ought to know Sir, that neither I nor any officer of my jurisdiction, have any thing to do with the stealing of plank in Florida by the wandering natives of Mexico residing in the Territory of Orleans; or with the refusal of the Judge thereof to take cognizance of the offence. Neither are the squabbles of Alcade Percy with the citizens of this Territory when he travels to Natchez, or the private disputes and quarrels of the individuals of our respective governments cognizable in any other way than by the known laws of the country — the

protection

protection and benefits of which in this govern-
ment never have been denied to any one,
and will continue to be afforded on application
to the proper authority.

As to the supposed assassination of
Ewin by Waggoner and others, they are
now under prosecution for said supposed
offence in the Circuit Court of Wilkinson
County in this Territory. How far Lieutenant
Johnson in pursuing a disaited soldier or
few miles within your jurisdiction has committed
an offence may depend very much on the
manner of doing it, and the laws and regulations
of your government, as also the countenance
which it gives to, and the part it takes in,
the protection of offenders who seek refuge there-
in. This Sir, I take to be a candid statement
and view of your application, and your
Excellency must know that it is incorrect
to impute to a government the improper acts
of its citizens, which ought only to be done to
far as it approves or ratifies them; — And also
that citizens or subjects of one country entering
into

into another are amenable to it's laws, and ought to be punished for offences committed therein, and to receive protection and redress for injuries according to the laws and forms of proceeding of the country.

I presume your Excellency will now understand that some of the acts of which you complain are not cognizable by any authority within my jurisdiction, and that if they were, the Executive would have no right to interpose or attend to complaints of this kind, until and after the civil authorities had failed to afford relief — and this does not appear to have been the case as to any one of the points on which you have complained, except the one which does not fall within my jurisdiction; nor has any representation respecting them been made to me before the present, notwithstanding your recapitulation.

As to the conduct of Lt Wilson which you say is so much opposed to the Treaty between the two Powers, by which the free navigation of the Mississippi is secured, I did, and yet think correct; and that it merits approbation, and shall only add to the remarks I made in a former letter to you on this subject, that as to this particular act considered in relation to the Treaty, I presume the right to navigate can only mean for lawful purposes, and not

not because we have a right to a common highway or navigable water, that therefore we have the right to kidnap and plunder with impunity. This being a principle so clearly defined and so generally understood as ought, and I trust will, prevent in future similar outrages and their consequences.

The relations of our respective governments arising out of Treaties &c I do not consider proper subjects of discussion between your Excellency and myself in any abstract point of view, therefore I decline any further remark.

The great desire to support and promote a good understanding and friendly intercourse between our governments and with your Excellency, and also a solicitude that you may so far understand the principles of this government and the mode of its administration as to prevent in future similar applications, which only tend to divert from an obtainment of that redress for injuries to which the laws of the country are so competent, and which will be cheerfully afforded by the proper authorities,

authorities, induced me to say more on this occasion than I otherwise should have done.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your Excellency's Most Ob.
Signed Robert Williams.

His Excellency
Governor Grandpré.

General orders issued by the Governor of the Mississippi Territory as Commander in Chief of the militia thereof.—

Washington September 9th 1805

Sir

You will on the receipt of this order immediately assemble from your Regiment the following detachment for duty—viz: Two Captains, two Lieutenants, two Ensigns, eight Sergeants, eight Corporals, two drummers or two bugle horn men, and eighty two privates— to compose two equal companies. They are to be well armed, and supplied with twelve rounds of ammunition per man.

Not

Not knowing the state of your Regiment by actual return, it must rest with yourself, from what Battalion you are to detach them. This detachment is to act as patrols near and along the line of demarkation, to prevent or check irregularities of every kind. They are to rendezvous at Pinckneyville, from whence they may be detached to their different posts.

As soon as they are so assembled a return of them will be made — naming the commissioned officers, and reporting the strength and state of arms &c. and forwarded to the Inspector at this place. In the mean time the detachment will be active as patrols, examining all equivocal characters passing the line from below, and especially if by night, stoping and securing any armed parties, impro-perly passing the line, as in some late instances, and in short affording all proper protection in their power to the citizens of the United States and their property.

The letter to effect this, one. Captain and his

his command will be detached to the centre part of the line to be guarded, and take post on or near the Turkpaw, from whence the communication must be kept up to meet the patrol detached from the post near the west end of the line. — Every occurrence worthy of note can, and must, be communicated in this way to the senior Captain, whose post will be in, or near Pinckneyville, and who will report, either direct to Head Quarters, or to the Inspectors office. Should any hostile attempt be made either on the citizens, their property, or the detachment on duty, force must be repelled with force.

John Ellis esq.r
Lt Colonel Commanding
5th Regt of militia etc. T.

Robert Williams

General Orders.

Head quarters Town of Washington
December 10. 1805.

Major Ferdinand L. Claiborne of the Adams county militia, is this day liberated from the arrest made by Lt Col. Osmun, for good and sufficient reasons appearing to me by a letter from the officer making the arrest.

By order of His Excellency
The Commander in Chief,
(signed) Wm Z. Shields
Aid de Camp.

Benajah Osmun
Lt Col. Comm.dt

Names of Attorneys admitted by the Governor to practice within this Territory, during the last six months:—

James L. Rawlings July 9th 1805.
William Murray —— aug. 27. —— "
Peter Walker —— " 28. —— "
Francis Vacher —— Oct. 30 —— "
Charles Baldwin —— Nov. 25. —— "
Lemuel Henry —— " 29. —— "
Isaac Baldwin —— " 29. —— "
John L. Bell —— Dec. 2. —— "

January 7th 1806

A copy of the foregoing Journal from page 3. was this day transmitted to the Secretary of State.

Jno. A. Williams
Secretary of the
Mississippi Territory.

From the Governor to Samuel Brooks, esq.

Washington January 6th 1806.

Sir

Yesterday evening I was honored with your letter enclosing a resolution of the Common Council relative to the appointment of a person to fill the office of Marshall for the City of Natchez.

As this proceedure was dictated with a view to meet the wishes of the Governor as to the opinion of the Common Council on the subject, he thinks proper to make known to your honorable body that the appointment of the Clerk of the Corporation Court to the office of Marshall is considered to be incompatible, and that for him to make a vacancy in order to avoid this incompatibility, would be perhaps, a departure from official propriety.

Please give assurances of my very great respect for the opinions of the Common Council, and of the high confidence I have in the rectitude of their endeavors.

I am with much respect

Yr.

(signed) Robert Williams.

Saml. Brooks esqr.
Mayor of the
City of Natchez

92. From the Governor to the Secretary of State

Mississippi Territory

Town of Washington, Jany 14. 1806

Sir

The last mail brought us no news from your City, either by letters or papers. The reason given is, that the eastern mail had not arrived at Nashville. All the information we have as yet, since the meeting of Congress, is the Presidents message; from the situation of affairs in this country, and the importance of this document (which is so highly approved here) perhaps the public mind was never more alive to any subject, and more anxious to know the result of any measure, than those which it is conjectured Congress will adopt on the present occasion.

I have nothing new or important to inform, except that the report of the Secretary of this Territory will furnish you with a continuation of the correspondence between Governor Grand pre' and myself except two letters from him to me dated the 30. November, copies of which I sent to the President in

a private letter.

The inclosed letter was sent me by Governor Claiborne on his way from the Atacapas to Orleans with a request that I would forward it on to you.

I have the honor to be

respectfully

Sir

(signed) Robert Williams.

The Hon.ble
James Madison
Secretary of State

Washington Janry. 27th. 1806.

Sir,

By disobedience to the orders of the President of the United States has continued near four weeks, and occasioned solely by that of your own as Colonel of the 5th Regiment of the Militia of this Territory.

The enclosed packet which you sent me containing the company-returns of a part of your Regiment I herewith return by the favour of Mr. Winston, and inform you that I cannot receive any other than a regimental one, as obeying my late order for that purpose.

You will make to me a return of the militia of your Regiment on or before the 31st. Instant.

John Ellis Lt. Col.
5. Regt

(signed) Robert Williams.

94

From the Governor to the Secretary of War.

Mississippi Territory

Washington Feby 3rd 1806.

Sir,

In obedience to the orders of the President of the United States, which you communicated to me some time past, I now have the honor to enclose you a return of the militia of this Territory. The little intercourse and difficulty of communication between this and Washington County, has, I suppose, prevented a return from that Regiment — indeed it was with difficulty I could obtain so far, from the frontier Counties here. I hope no material inconvenience has or will occure by this delay.

The horse companies that are forming here find it difficult to procure suitable swords. If you could send about 200. they would sell immediately, so as to cover cost and charges. The officers of the several companies ~~h~~ have requested I would make an application to you for this purpose. They are articles not as apt to be carried off as guns, — again, they

would belong to a particular and more select class of citizens.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Yours
(Signed) Robert Williams.

The Hon.ble
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War

From the Governor to the President of the Natchez Hospital.

Washington Feb: 8: 1806.

Sir.

I have the honor to enclose you two acts of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee respecting the Natchez Hospital, which were forwarded to me for that purpose.

I am with respect

(Signed) Robert Williams.

The President of the
Natchez Hospital.

From the Governor to the Secretary of the Territory.

Washington Feby 10. 1806.

Sir,

You are hereby informed that I leave this Territory today for New-Orleans, and perhaps shall not return 'til the first of next month.

I am with respect

Sir

Your

Signed Robert Williams.

Thomas H. Williams esqr

Secretary of the Ill. Territory

From the Governor to Edward Green

Washington March 17. 1806.

Sir,

The reasons given in your note of January 15th for not having made a report of the state of the Treasury of Jefferson County, to the County Court the 4th being

being deemed insufficient; and in as much as you conceive it not to be your duty to make such report, Mr. David Snodgrass is appointed your successor in the office of County Treasurer for said County, to whom you will deliver all things in your possession property appertaining to that office.

I am with respect

Your

(Signed) Robert Williams.

Edward Green esq.
late County Treasurer
Jefferson County

From the Governor to Col. William Neely

Washington Mi. T. March 19. 1806

Sir,

Your letter of the 23rd ult. has been received.

The resignations of the three officers of your Regiment, as mentioned in your letter, have been accepted; and as soon as you will furnish me with the names

If known on their arrival, the Names for them will be made out and forwarded to you;— You mention also, some other vacancies— pleas— forward names for them also.

Thus are you for the purpose of being sold or leased to the militia, but it is customary for an application for them to be made at this place, because I have no place of deposit for them in the different Counties; therefore when they leave this it must be at the responsibility of the individual or individuals who take them.

You are not to suppose that any attention which will tend to render the militia bill fit for service, will be disagreeable to me altho' it may be troublesome.

I am with great

Esteem

Dear Sir

Your Obed. Servt.

Robt. Williams.

Col. William Tate.

From the Governor to Samuel Mitchell

Washington ct. T. March 19. 1806.

Sir

Your letter of the 17th ult. has been rec

My opinion is that the expence of apprehending and conveying Patrick Hughs, a supposed criminal to Fort Chambers ought to be paid by the Territory as he is a prisoner of it escaping from one of its Jails, and taken within this jurisdiction.

I am with respect

&c. &c.

Signed Robert Williams.

Samuel Mitchell esq.
Agent to the Chickasaws

From the Governor to the Secretary of War.

Washington ct. T. March 25. 1806

Sir

I now have the honor to enclose you a further return of the militia of this Territory, making the Brigade returns which I forwarded some time past, complete.

I am with due respect

&c. &c. &c.

Signed Robert Williams

The Hon.ble
H. Dearborn
Sec.y of War

100.

From the Governor to the Secretary of State.

Washington M. T. March 25. 18[illegible]

Sir,

The Commission for Mr. Meade as Secretary of this Territory enclosed to me from your Department, has not the Seal affixed;— I have not sent it back, but inform you of the circumstance, in order that you may judge of the expediency of forwarding another.

Mr. Meade has not yet arrived— should he before another comes on, I suppose he will be qualified.

I am with great respect

Yr.

Signed, Robert Williams

The Hon.ble

James Madison

Secretary of State

From the Governor to Joseph Chambers.

Washington Mi. T. March 27th 1806.

Sir,

I am informed from high authority, that lately, and since the port of Mobille has been shut, there is much reason to believe the principal Spanish officers are intriguing with the Indians — with views hostile to the United States; — that more than an usual intercourse is kept up between the Spanish authorities at Mobille and some of the Indian Chiefs, particularly the Chactaws, and that they are receiving therefrom a considerable quantity of military stores, — much more so than they have been in the habit of doing heretofore. Although I hope and expect these reports are magnified, and that my informant may have been misinformed; yet as Mr Dinsmoor the agent is not, I expect, in the nation, and as such things are possible, I wish and request that you will take such measures as in your judgment are best calculated to ascertain whether any tampering of this kind is going on, and inform me thereof immediately should it be the case. The whole thing is submitted to your discretion, and to effect which you will spare no expence.

I am with respect
Sir
Your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) Robert Williams

Joseph Chambers Esqr.
Fort St Stephens

From the Governor to the Secretary of State

Washington M. T. March 29. 18[illegible]

Sir

Finding that the distribution of the laws of the United States in this Territory in volumes alone, is attended with considerable delay, — much more so than is conducive to a timely knowledge and understanding of them, I take the liberty of suggesting the expediency of extending their publication through the medium of the news papers within this Territory. This mode of promulgating the laws of the Union in this quarter becomes the more necessary in proportion to the distance we are from the seat of the General Government, and the dispersed situation of the inhabitants; I trust therefore, you will think it proper to take the necessary steps for having it done.

I am with due respect

Yr.

(Signed) Robert Williams.

James Madison esq.
Secretary of State

From the Governor to the Secretary of State.

Mississippi Territory,

Washington April 1st 1806.

Sir,

I am apprehensive this quarter of the Union is not long destined to a state of peace — from the best and latest accounts I expect every day to hear of the shedding of blood on the west side of the Mississippi river; and expectations are not more favorable from the neighbourhood of Mobille; — for since the shutting of that port the people have become much more irritable than heretofore, and it's probable will attempt to force their way to New-Orleans. It is said that the Spaniards are tampering with the Indians with hostile views towards us. — That they have agents among them and are supplying them with large quantities of ammunition, especially those of the Six Towns, who are great rascals, and always have been pretty much of Spaniards.

I sent over there last week to ascertain the truth of the information I have received on this subject, as Mr Simmons the agent is absent, and shall start to Pigbee next week myself, and pass through those Towns, and take my interpreter along — from whence, should the situation of affairs admit of

my

My address for the present will be
Harrodsburg Mercer County Ky
Yours &c.

Signed Robert Williams.
Capt. Mercer Co. Ky.
Secretary of State

Form for Governor to the Secretary of War.
Washington Ap. 7th 1846.

Sir

I write you under date of
relative to the efficiency of arming
our home guard and fitting for service
companies of horse that about to be raised
within this Country to which I have
received no answer.

I now inform you that four Companies
are organized which I shall this week form
into a Regiment. They are equipt except my
officers have not suitable swords and pistols
neither can they be had in this quarter.

I am requested by these companies to
view

receive the application for those articles to be sent
for, with assurances that they will be immediately
purchased at a price which will indemnify the
United States as to costs and charges. On this
subject I beg leave to refer to my former letter.

I am apprehensive we are not long
destined to a state of peace in this quarter. I expect
every day to hear of the shedding of blood on the west
sides of the Mississippi river, and my expectations
are pretty much the same from Tombigbee; for
since the shutting of the port of Mobile the people
have become very discontented; and it's probable
will attempt to force their passage to New Orleans.

I am &c.

(Signed) Robert Williams.

The Hon^ble
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War

From the Governor to the Secretary of State.

Mississippi Territory.

Washington April 7th 1806

Sir

I have this day drawn on you at ten days sight, in favor of John Henderson of Natchez, for the sum of one hundred and twenty dollars. The vouchers shewing the items of this expenditure are enclosed.

This expenditure I take it for granted will be thought reasonable and allowed on the same principle that a similar one was made to Col. West while he administered this Government.

From the time I commenced the administration of this Government till Mr. Williams qualified as Secretary, I was without any assistance, except that for which this expenditure was made (Col. West having withdrawn himself on my coming into office) and it was impossible for me to discharge the duties of the office of Governor, and attend to

those of Commissioners, without some explanation.

I am with great respect

(Signed) Robert Williams.

James Madison esq.

Secretary of State.

From the Governor to Governor Grand Pré

Mississippi Territory

April 8. 1806.

Sir,

Your very polite and friendly letter of the 1st instant, was handed to me last evening by Major Minor. So far as relates to any plot or combination of persons within this Territory among themselves, or with others in different quarters, to disturb the tranquility of your Government or the quiet of its subjects, I give your Excellency the fullest assurances, that every exertion in my power shall be used to counteract any thing of the kind, and to bring the offenders to punishment. — As to the extent of such a project to the Territory of Orleans, I have no doubt

you.

you will have made it known to, and
corresponded with Governor Claiborne on the
subject, who I have no doubt will unite
with me in this respect.

As regards that part of your letter
respecting Passports to persons travelling through
the Territories and Jurisdictions of his Catholic
Majesty near this Territory, on my part I can
only request and recommend the measure,
as many have been in the habit of obtaining
Passports heretofore. But if your Government
makes such a regulation, and your Excellency
will notify me accordingly, I will give publicity
to it in this Territory, with such remarks as
will tend to induce the motives which you
have expressed in your letter to me for
wishing such a regulation, to be properly
appreciated.

Accept Sir, my best respects
and high consideration for your Excellency.

His Excellency
Governor Grand Pré.

[Signed] Robert Williams.

From the Governor to Robt H. Morrow Esq.

Washington april 4th 1806

Sir,

Your letter of the 3rd Instant addressed to me on the subject of a complaint made by Charles de France against your conduct as a Justice of the Peace, was rec'd to day.

As the reasons which induced me to receive complaints against public officers as well as their replies in writing alone, were very different from that of affording the parties an opportunity of playing off their wit and sarcasm; and being also indisposed to avail myself of the indiscretion of any one, is the true reason why I inclose you your reply to said complaint; and now inform you that I must receive one very different, both as to style and manner, before I can take cognizance of it. And as to any correspondence which you may desire to open and carry on with Mr. De France relative to a treatise on the term "drunken blackguard" you are hereby informed it must pass through some other channel than myself.

(signed) Robert Williams.

Robert H. Morrow Esq.

110.

From the Governor to Robert H. Morrow

Washington april 10.th 1806.

Sir,

The complaint Charles De France made to me against you as a Justice of the Peace, are considered to belong to my office — of course are expected to be returned whenever your final answer to them should be made; which having been received, it is now expected you will return them.

I am with respect.

(Signed) Robert Williams.

Robert H. Morrow Esq.r

From the Governor to Robert H. Morrow Esq.r

Washington april 15. 1806.

Sir,

Your letter of the 9.th instant was duly received by which it appears you persist in referring me to your reply of the 3.rd instant to complaint made by Charles De France against your conduct as a Justice of the Peace, and decline making any other although you were informed that your said reply

your

was such that cognizance could not be taken of it as related to the [redacted] of complaint against you And as to the second complaint which I handed you of a similar kind, you also refuse a reply.

As this conduct can have no other effect, and it seems has been dictated with a view either to put at defiance and render useless a regulation which has been adopted as well to prevent frivolous complaints being made to me against public officers, as to afford them an opportunity of answering, (to wit that both should be in writing) or to admit the charges and avoid answering - I have thought it expedient and proper to revoke your commission as a Justice of the Peace for Adams County, from the day of the date hereof.

(Signed) Robert Williams.

Robert H. Morrow.

From the Governor to Colonel Fitzpatrick

Washington M. T. April 16. 1806.

Sir,

Agreeably to the conversation that passed between you and myself the other day, I now inform you.

you that the eighty eight rifles and twelve muskets sent into your County for the use of the militia of your Regiment by Major Flecharty, may be either sold or loaned to the militia at your discretion. If sold to be at the price of from twelve to sixteen dollars for the rifles, payable on or before the 1st. day of January next, by giving bond and security; — and the muskets at a proportionable rate.

I am yrs &c
(signed) Robert Williams.

Col. Tho. Fitzpatrick
2nd Regt.

From the Governor to Major John F. Carmichael.

Washington apric 16th 1806.

Sir,

I have sent to Natchez fifty rifles to be forwarded on to Fort Adams by Col. Scott, and subject to your order and disposition, by being distributed among, or kept in deposit for the use of the militia of the 5th Regiment — Having conversed with you in person on this subject the other day renders it unnecessary to add more at the present time.

The order &c. relative to your visiting the

the Tombigbee settlement, you will receive from Col. Scott.

I am with respect yrs.

(Signed) Robert Williams.

Major John F. Carmichael

From the Governor to Harry Toulmin esqr.

Washington M. T. april 16th 1806.

Sir,

I am authorized as Governor of this Territory, by a resolution of the General Assembly thereof, passed on the 28th day of December in the year 1805, to employ a person learned in the law, to compile a digest of the statutes of the Territory then in force, to be laid before the General Assembly for their approbation.

Being desirous to avail the public of your services and legal information on the occasion, I have taken the liberty to commit to your charge the execution of the work, and herewith enclose you an appointment to that effect, of which I solicit your acceptance.

I can make no specific proposition as to the compensation, - which you will observe by a reference to the resolution authorizing this work, is to be made by the General Assembly: but you may rely on my disposition and exertions to procure an adequate compensation for

for the expense and labor of such a work.

As to the time in which the work is to be completed I take the liberty to express a wish that it may be done so as to be laid before the General Assembly at their next annual meeting.

I have the honor to be

very respectfully Yrs.

The Hon^ble
Harry Toulmin

(signed) Robert Williams.

By Robert Williams Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

Know Ye, That reposing special confidence in the law-learning and legal abilities of Harry Toulmin, and by virtue of the authority in me vested by a resolution of the General Assembly of the Territory aforesaid, passed the 28^th day of December in the year 1805 in the following words—

"Resolved by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory in Genl. Assembly convened, That the Governor of the Territory be authorized to appoint or employ, a person learned in the laws, to compile a digest of the statutes of the Territory now in force, to be laid before the Genl. Assembly

assembly for their affiliation, and the person so employed, shall receive such compensation for the labor in making such digest, as said General Assembly may deem proper." — I do appoint him to compile a digest of the statutes of this Territory in conformity with the above resolution.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory, at the Town of Washington the eighteenth day of April 1806, and in the thirtieth year of the Independence of the United States.

Seal

By the Governor Robert Williams.

Wm R. Williams Secry

From the Governor to the Secretary of the Treasury

Mississippi Territory

Washington april 14. 1806.

Sir

I have this day drawn on you at ten days sight in favor of John Henderson, for the sum of three hundred and forty four $\frac{75}{100}$ dollars.

The account and vouchers to support this expenditure are enclosed. Perhaps it might have been

been more proper to have forwarded the ~~m~~
for settlement previously, but having been oblig
to meet this expense with my own money, it
became material for me to draw — especially
as I had to build a house for an office
(a convenient and safe one not being to be had
in this place) which will account for the voucher
N.° 5 being in my own name. I will
further observe that the offices of Govenor
and Secretary were recived without any stationary
on hand, or the means to buy it; not even a case
to hold the papers. — I had to recive and bring
them from Col. Nicks in baggs. The stationary
now on hand it's probable will be sufficient for
this year.

Sam H

Signed Robert Williams.

Albert Gallatin. esqr
Secretary of the Treasury

From the Governor to the Secretary.

Washington april 21.st 1806

Sir

I leave this place to day for North Carolina, after which the administration of the Government will devolve on yourself, — and for the faithful execution of which I take the freedom to express my unlimited confidence.

Accept Sir, my best respects for your health and prosperity through life.

I signed I Robert Williams.

Thomas N. Williams esq.r

Secretary.

(15).

Washington ill. T. April 2[illegible]

Sir

I have received your letter of this date addressed to the Governor of this Territory, covering the copy of an Exequatur issued by the President of the United States recognizing you as commercial Agent of France to reside at the City of Natchez.

I sincerely wish that the situation may correspond in every respect with your desires; and that you may experience on all occasions that civility which is justly due to the Representatives of a friendly power.

Accept Sir, assurances

of my respectful consideration

(signed) Thos H. Williams.

To. Citizen Martel

Commercial Agent of France

for the City of Natchez.

Washington N. C. May 1st 1806.

Sir

Your letter of the 29th ultimo
addressed to the Governor of this Territory,
came to hand before his departure for North
Carolina, but owing to a press of business he could
not answer it.

I now enclose commissions for the three
gentlemen recommended by you as Ensigns
in your Regiment.

Your late exertions in endeavouring
to ascertain the truth of a report that the
Spaniards were tampering with the Chactaw
Indians, are indicative of that zeal which
will become the character of an American Officer,
and entitle you to a particular acknowledgment.

With great consideration,

I am,

Sir &c. Servant

(signed) Jno. A. Williams.

Col. John Gaither
of the 3rd Regt.

The following gentlemen have been admitted to practice as Attorneys and Counsellors at Law within the several Courts of this Territory, since the 1st January 1806 — viz: —

John Taylor	January 16. 1806.
Peter A. Vandorn	February 10. "
David Doman	May — 26. —,

Washington M. T. June 2. 1806.

Sir,

On this day I received under cover from the Department of State a duplicate Commission for Fowler, Elleade esq.r who has been appointed my Successor as Secretary of the Mississippi Territory; — I have at the same moment the satisfaction to learn that he has arrived at Natchez, and that I shall have the pleasure of seeing him here this evening or tomorrow, in order to take upon himself the administration of this Government which devolves on the Secretary in consequence of the absence of the Governor, who set out for

for North Carolina on the 21st of April last.

I shall therefore surrender to him all the records and public documents appertaining to that Department of the Territorial Government of which I have hitherto had the superintendance.

I have the honor to be

with respectful consideration

Yr. Mo. Ob. Servant

Thos. H. Williams.

James Madison esqr

Secretary of the State